Graduate Programs

Upon graduating from Appalachian, many of our students decide to pursue an advanced education in anthropology. Across the country, graduate programs like the ones listed below have offered our graduates excellent opportunities to be further immersed in anthropology and other related fields.

- Wake Forest University, Sustainability
- Arizona State University, Non Profit Studies
- University of Chicago, Masters of Social Work
- University of Michigan, Masters of Social Work
- SIT Graduate Institute, Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management

Careers in Anthropology

The anthropology curriculum prepares our students for a wide range of careers in human service fields or for further anthropological research opportunities. Below is a list of jobs that our students have landed after graduation.

- Public Outreach Organizer, North Carolina Conservation Network
- Research Assistant, Nature Magazine
- Citizen Scientist, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- Documentarian for non-profit organization based in Calcutta, India
- Project Scientist, Environmental Services, Inc.
- Farmer, Sunshine Cove Farm in Vilas, NC
- Associate Director, Family Support Services
- Disaster Relief Grant Specialist, Foundation for the Carolinas

CONTACT US

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Social Practice & Sustainability
Department of Anthropology
Welcome

As one of the fastest-growing departments at Appalachian, the Department of Anthropology is committed to a comparative and holistic approach to the study of the human experience. The anthropological perspective provides a broad understanding of the origins as well as the meaning of physical and cultural diversity in the world - past, present, and future.

About the Concentration

Choosing a concentration in Social Practice & Sustainability offers rigorous theoretical, methodological, ethical, and geographic area training, preparing students to tackle crucial social and environmental problems facing communities around the world. A cultural anthropological perspective anchors students in ethnographic and other critical perspectives, foregrounding questions of power, history, and human difference in social and sustainable efforts. SPS is grounded in opportunities for hands-on exploration of conservation, development, landscapes, health and medicine, and social movements.

Program Requirements

- Completion of General Education requirements
- Completion of at least 6 credit hours of foreign language at intermediate level or higher
- Completion of at least 45 hours within the major and concentration
- Engagement in at least 3 credit hours of rigorous internship experience relating to Sustainability and Social Practice
- Minimum of 9 credit hours in a minor
- 2.0 GPA minimum required for graduation

Our Students

Since graduating from Appalachian in 2014, Sarah Perry has worked in the nonprofit sector of North and South America. After starting her career in Asheville, NC, Perry moved to Colombia, where she began working with Heart for Change, Volunteers Colombia, and The Ministry of Education. The three nonprofits, along with other state and non-governmental organizations, started a coalition that focuses on education and bilingualism. In 2016, Perry was named the executive producer and researcher for a documentary about historic memory in the frame of ongoing peace dynamics in Colombia. Perry says that her education prepared her "to think about the opportunities that exist at this intersection, and how this might strengthen the objective of the discipline as anthropology grows and evolves."

Sample Courses

- ANT 3410 Ethnographic Methods
- ANT 3610 Anthro of Environmental Justice
- ANT 3620 Political Ecology & Sustainability
- ANT 3680 Environmental Anthropology
- ANT 3810 Engaging Anthropology
- ANT 4265 Anthropology and Global Health
- ANT 4360 Primate Conservation
- ANT 4611 Culture, Energy & Power

Faculty

- **Dr. Jon H. Carter** Criminality, aesthetics, politics, media theory, fictocriticism and ethnographic writing, Honduras, Latin America
- **Dr. Eric I. Karchmer** Medical anthropology, science studies, the politics of knowledge, China
- **Dr. Susan M. Lappan** Primate behavioral ecology and conservation, reproductive strategies, gibbons of Indonesia and Malaysia
- **Dr. Diane P. Mines** Materiality and phenomenology of time, Tamil Studies, India and South Asia
- **Dr. Dana E. Powell** Cultural politics of energy development; political ecology; critical Indigenous studies, Native North America
- **Dr. Timothy J. Smith** Cultural politics of representation, ethnicity and development, indigenous movements and ethnography of Latin America
- **Dr. Christina V. Sornito** Cultural anthropology of media theory, religion, ethnographic film, video/audio documentary, anthropology of sound, Phillipines and Southeast Asia